WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for diagnosis of video device performance in transferring audio visual data over a video network, the system comprising:

a physical network interface operable to receive audio-visual data associated with the video device;

a diagnostic tool operable to access the audio visual data; and

a diagnostic engine interfaced with the diagnostic tool and operable to determine performance statistics by analysis of the audio visual data accessed with the diagnostic tool.

2.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the performance statistic comprises jitter.

3.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the performance statistic comprises latency.

4.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the performance statistic comprises throughput.

5.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the performance statistic comprises packet loss.

6.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the performance statistic comprises lip sync.

7.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the diagnostic tool comprises a video CODEC.

8.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the diagnostic
tool comprises an audio CODEC.

9.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the diagnostic
5   tool comprises a packet sniffer.

10.   The system of Claim 1 further comprising a
communication agent that communicates the performance
statistics through a video network.

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11.   The system of Claim 10 wherein the
communication agent comprises an SNMP agent.

12.   The system of Claim 10 wherein the
15   communication agent comprises an Internet server.

13.   The system of Claim 1 wherein the video network
comprises video over Internet Protocol and the diagnostic
tool comprises a packet sniffer.

14. A method for diagnosis of video device performance in transferring audio visual data over a video network, the method comprising:

receiving audio-visual data associated with the
5   video device at a diagnostic device interfaced with the network;

accessing the audio visual data with a diagnostic tool; and

determining performance statistics for the video
10   device through analysis of the accessed audio visual data.

15. The method of Claim 14 further comprising:
reporting the performance statistics from the
15   diagnostic device through the video network.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein reporting comprises sending the performance statistics through an SNMP agent associated with the diagnostic device.
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17. The method of Claim 15 wherein reporting comprises sending the performance statistics through a Web server associated with the diagnostic device.

25   18. The method of Claim 15 wherein the performance statistic comprise lip sync.

19. The method of Claim 15 wherein the performance statistic comprises jitter.
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20. The method of Claim 15 wherein the performance statistic comprise latency.

21.   A method for evaluating the performance of one
or more video devices deployed on a video network, the
method comprising:

distributing one or more dedicated diagnostic nodes
5   through the video network, each distributed diagnostic
node associated with a proximate video device;

receiving compressed audio visual data at the
diagnostic node, the audio visual data associated with
the video device; and

10   accessing the audio visual data with the diagnostic
node to determine performance statistics of the
associated video device.

22.   The method of Claim 21 further comprising:
15   controlling the diagnostic nodes from a server
interfaced with the video network.

23.   The method of Claim 22 further comprising:
reporting performance statistics to the server from
20   the diagnostic nodes over the video network.

24.   The method of Claim 23 wherein the server
communicates with the diagnostic nodes through an SNMP
agent.

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25.   The method of Claim 23 wherein the server
communicates with the diagnostic nodes over the video
network through an Internet client host relationship.

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